

Congressman Steve King today announced the Sergeant Bluff Fire and Rescue Department will receive a \$38,010 grant from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency in cooperation with the U.S. Fire Administration. The grant is for operations and safety.

"I am pleased to announce this grant which will greatly benefit the outstanding Sergeant Bluff Fire and Rescue Department and improve emergency response services in Woodbury County," King said.

"Our first responders and firefighters deserve our full support as they work to protect our families and communities."

BACKGROUND:

- The Department of Homeland Security's Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) program is an important component of a larger, coordinated effort to strengthen the nation's overall level of preparedness and ability to respond to fire and fire-related hazards. Since 2004, with the Fiscal Year 2008 awards, AFG has provided a total of almost \$2.75 billion to first-responder organizations to purchase response equipment, personal protective equipment, and vehicles.

- The purpose of the FY 2008 AFG is to award grants directly to fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service (EMS) organizations. These awards aim to enhance first responders' ability to protect the health and safety of the public, as well as that of first-responder personnel, with respect to fire-related hazards. Using a competitive process overseen by fire service subject matter experts, AFG grants are awarded to applicants whose requests best address the priorities of the AFG program.